



Lusaka, Zambia
10 February 2025

News release

Zambians support high-quality elections and a two-term limit on presidential mandates, Afrobarometer survey shows

Most Zambians endorse regular, open, and honest elections as the best way to choose their political leaders, the latest Afrobarometer survey shows.

Most also favour limiting their president to a maximum of two terms. Support for both elections and a two-term limit has been strong for the past decade.

A large majority of Zambians also say Parliament, rather than the president, should make the country's laws.

But they are divided in their views on military intervention in politics, with almost half seeing it as legitimate if elected leaders abuse their power.

Key findings

- Almost nine out of 10 Zambians (86%) support regular, open, and honest elections as the best way to choose their political leaders, a position that has consistently had strong support over the past decade (Figure 1).
- Seven in 10 citizens (70%) endorse a two-term limit on presidential mandates, similarly a position that has consistently had strong support for the past decade (Figure 2).
- Two-thirds (66%) of respondents say the president should be accountable to Parliament for how his government spends taxpayers' money (Figure 3).
- A majority (70%) of Zambians say Parliament should make the country's laws even if the president does not agree (Figure 4).
- About half (51%) of citizens say the army should never intervene in the country's political processes, while 45% say it's legitimate for the military to intervene when elected leaders abuse power (Figure 5).

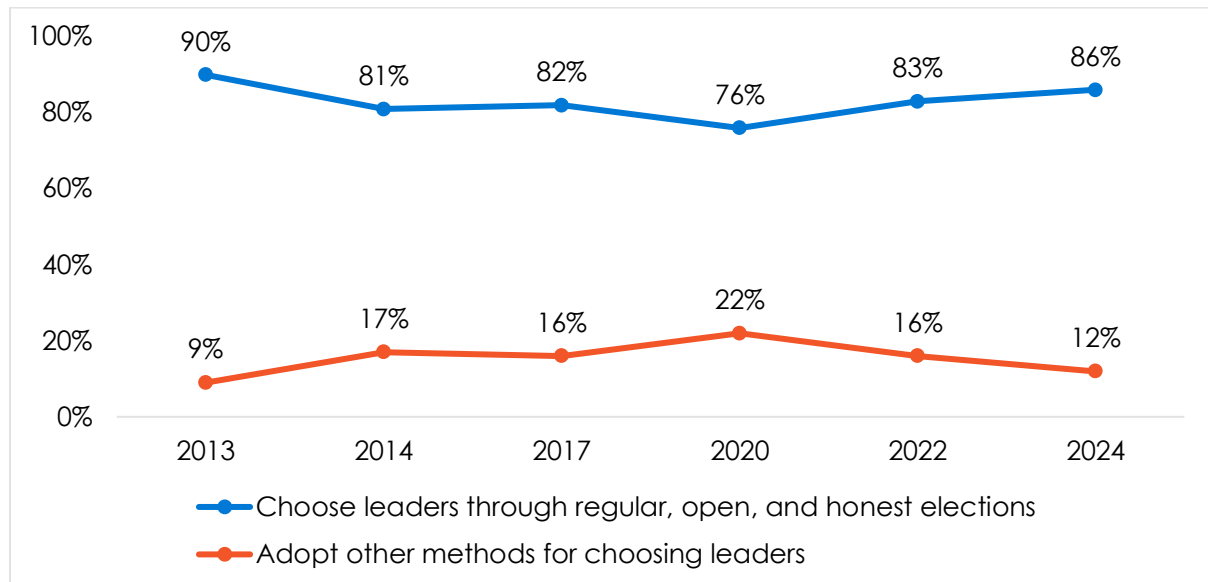
Afrobarometer surveys

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Nine survey rounds in up to 42 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 10 were launched in January 2024. Afrobarometer's national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Zambia, led by the Institute of Economic and Social Research (INESOR), interviewed a nationally representative sample of 1,200 adult citizens between 8 and 28 July 2024. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous standard Afrobarometer surveys were conducted in Zambia in 1999, 2004, 2005, 2009, 2012, 2014, 2017, 2021, and 2022.

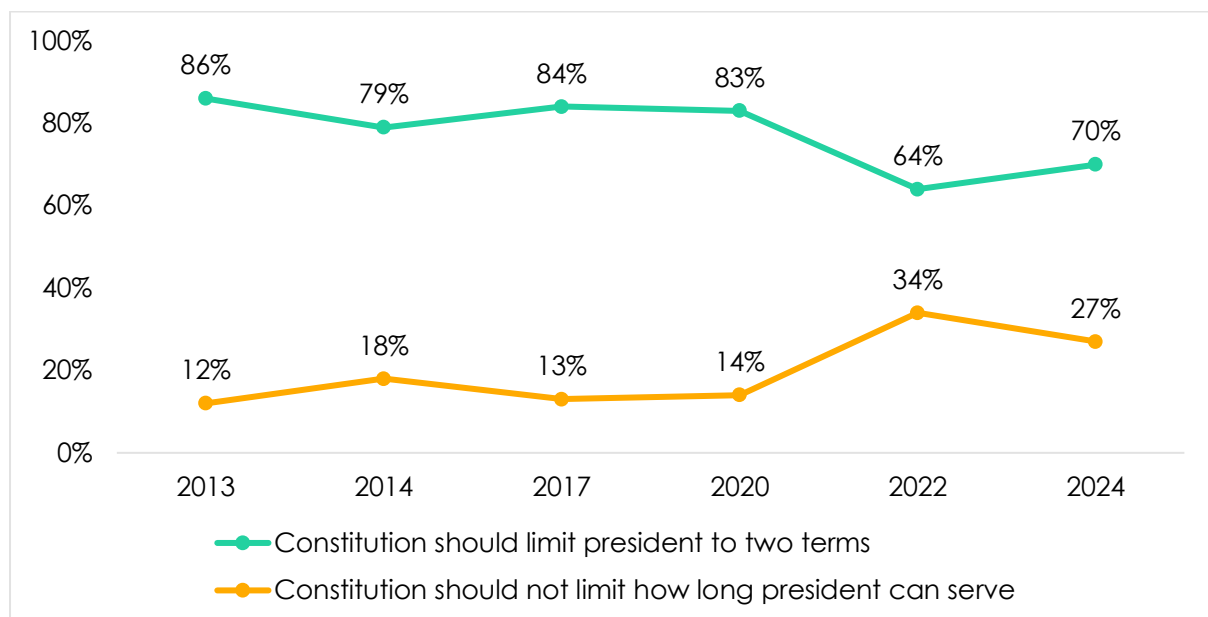
Charts

Figure 1: Views on elections as the best method for choosing leaders | Zambia | 2013-2024



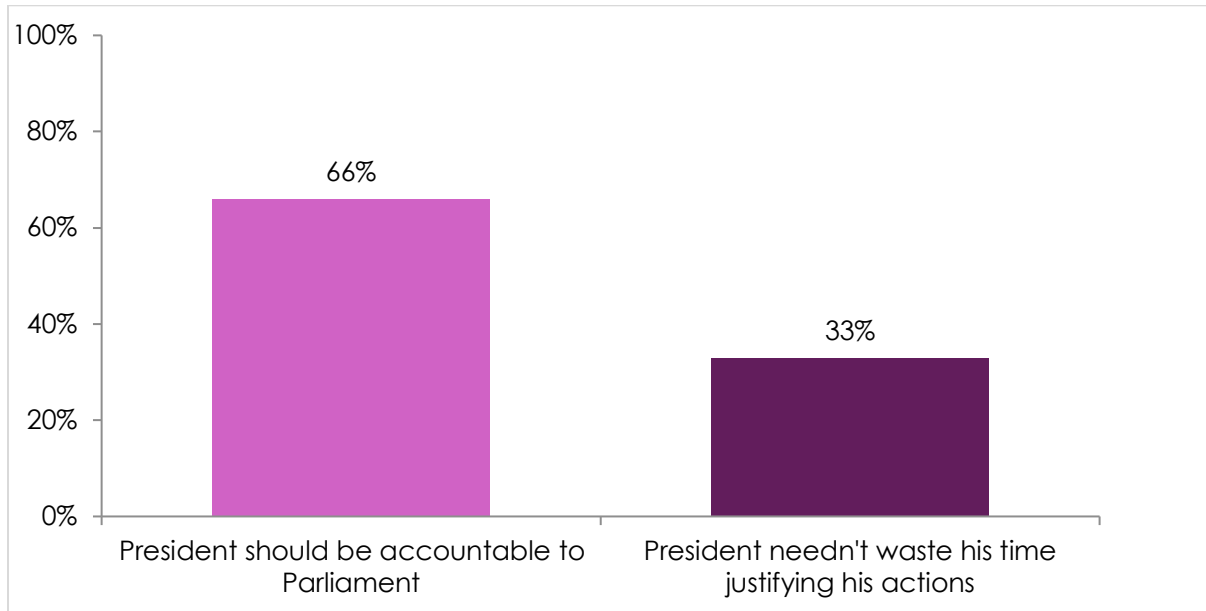
Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?
 Statement 1: We should choose our leaders in this country through regular, open, and honest elections.
 Statement 2: Since elections sometimes produce bad results, we should adopt other methods for choosing this country's leaders.

Figure 2: Views on presidential term limits | Zambia | 2013-2024



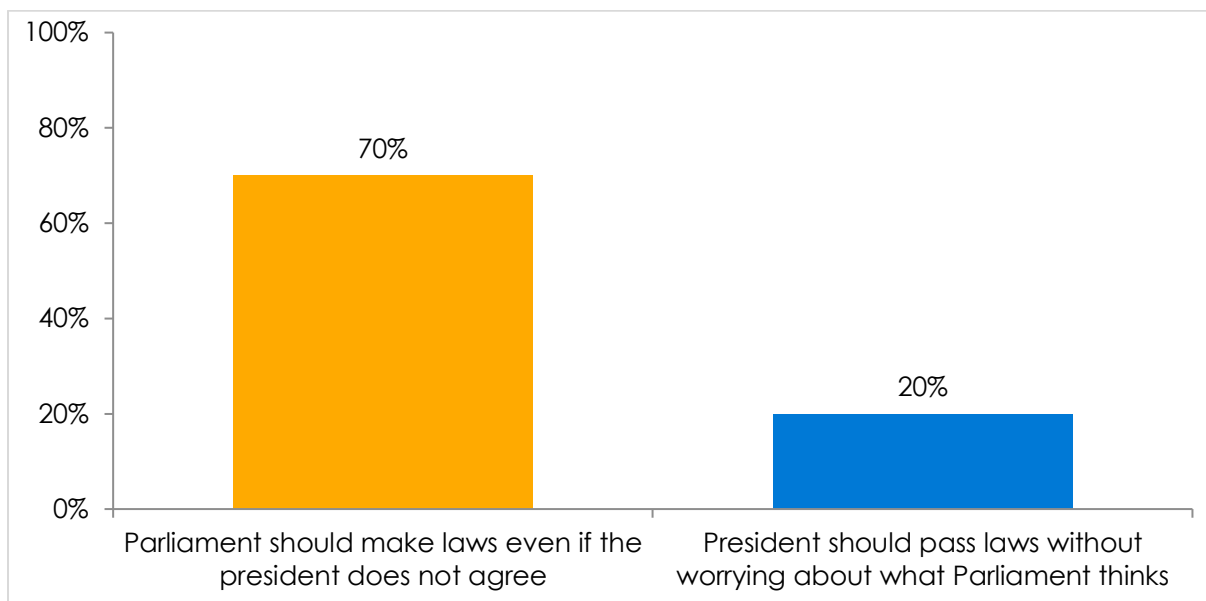
Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?
 Statement 1: The Constitution should limit president to serving a maximum of two terms in office.
 Statement 2: There should be no constitutional limit on how long the president can serve.

Figure 3: Should the president be accountable to Parliament? | Zambia | 2024



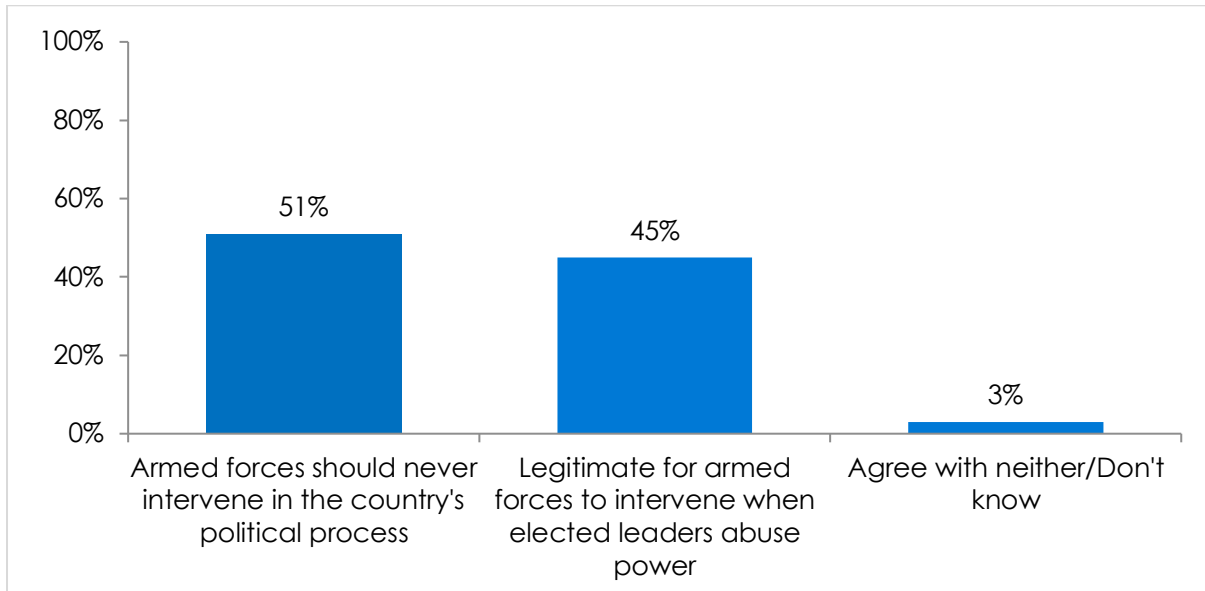
Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?
 Statement 1: Parliament should ensure that the president explains to it on a regular basis how his government spends taxpayers' money.
 Statement 2: The president should be able to devote his full attention to developing the country rather than wasting time justifying his actions.

Figure 4: Parliament or president: Who should make laws? | Zambia | 2024



Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?
 Statement 1: Members of Parliament represent the people; therefore, they should make laws for this country, even if the president does not agree.
 Statement 2: Since the president represents all of us, he should pass laws without worrying about what Parliament thinks.

Figure 5: Should army intervene in the country's politics? | Zambia | 2024



Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?
 Statement 1: Zambia's armed forces should never intervene in the country's political process.
 Statement 2: It is legitimate for the armed forces to take control of government when elected leaders abuse power for their own ends.

For more information, please contact:

Institute of Economic and Social Research (INESOR), University of Zambia
 Edward Chibwili
 Telephone: +260 971 754083
 Email: edward.chibwili@unza.zm

Visit us online at:
www.unza.zm/institutes/inesor
www.afrobarometer.org

Follow our releases on #VoicesAfrica.

